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S. P. HANSOM, EDITOR.

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1867.

TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.
Senators and Representatives can have the DAILY NATIONAL REPUBLICAN delivered regularly and promptly at their residence, in *envelopes*, by ordering it through the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or at the office of the REPUBLICAN, No. 511 Ninth street, near Pennsylvania avenue.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE SALARIES OF CLERKS IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

Whilst it is possible, and indeed very probable, that some of the applicants for an increase of the salaries of clerks in the Departments, in their distress, have been too importunate in their demands, we trust that Congress will excuse them under the circumstances, and not allow their faults in this respect to prejudice the just appeal of the whole body of clerks as a class. Different persons have different ways of arguing all questions. Some applicants for office put their appeals on the ground of necessity; some put them on the ground of services rendered; and some put them on the ground that the appointing power owes it in justice to itself. So in respect to the increase of compensations generally.

These appeals are too frequently answered by the curt response that if the incumbents cannot discharge their duties for the pay allowed by law, enough others may be found who can. But a very little observation of the practical workings of the Departments will show that the public service is not promoted by the application of any such rule. Where, as it was found several years since, the salaries of the Cabinet officers were wholly insufficient for their support here in Washington in the moderate style of living they observed, it was very readily concluded by Congress that they ought to be increased, and they were increased. So in respect to the salaries of some of our foreign Ministers. During the war, when every energy of the Government was strained to save the life of the nation, it was deemed untimely to raise salaries, although, by reason of the high prices of the staples of life, various officers in the Departments enjoying no perquisites needed an increase very much. It is known by every one at all familiar with the subject that the most of the heads of Departments were obliged to draw largely from private funds to support themselves here. But very few of the clerks had or have any private funds to draw from; so that it was and is harder for them than it was or is for the heads of the Departments in which they are employed. Hundreds of them, with all the economy they are able to practice, are now suffering for the necessities of life. To dismiss them would be to send them out in the world moneyless and shelterless, and bring others who should take their places into a similar misery, besides bringing into a delicate service a class of inexperienced persons to close up the business of the recent war.

The act of the present Congress in and by which that body increased the salaries of its own members sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. was justified by those members on the ground of the increased cost of living here—the identical reason assigned by the clerks in the Departments for asking for a similar increase of their compensation. They desire to appeal to the same body, by every consideration of justice as well as humanity, to afford the same measure of relief to them. Equality is generally considered equity in most of our political affairs. A refusal of Congress to do by the clerks as they have done by themselves will not fail, therefore, to be considered a denial of equity in respect to compensation for official services.

But this is by no means the highest ground upon which this application is based, or should be granted. The highest and best ground is that our great and exalted nation ought to pay its public servants a reasonable compensation for their services. The dignity of the nation is not satisfied with stinting compensations to the absolute daily needs of its servants; it ought to pay those as much as they could earn in other avocations, affording them the opportunity to lay up something for support in their declining years. Regardless of the prayer of the clerks, we put our appeal to Congress in their behalf upon the higher ground that the dignity of the Government requires it to be granted.

That the present salaries of the clerks are not a reasonable compensation for the services required of them, in view of the past, present and prospective prices of living here, every sensible person must admit. If they were doubled it would not be excessive nor unjust; because the cost of living has more than doubled since the rates were fixed and made payable in gold. Then it is to be remembered that up to the time of the commencement of the war the clerks could purchase with their salaries in gold more than double of the amount of the necessities of life they can purchase with them to-day; and yet it is proverbial that those having families of any size to support could barely live then. Hence if those salaries were reasonable when they were fixed, they are very inadequate now. Hence it would be just for Congress to increase them to a reasonable amount.

This brings us to the question of how much they should be increased. We have said that if they are made as good as they were before the war, they ought to be doubled. But we can suppose that some Senators and Representatives may deem it inexpedient to make so great an increase at once, and hence, to obviate delay in consequence of differences of opinion respecting the amount of the increase to be made, it may be expedient for them to add only sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. to them—the amount they added to their own. And with that we presume most of the clerks would be content. We make that proposition.

IMPORTANT TO FURNACERS AND HOLDERS OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

An important official article, with the above title, will be found on our first page to-day.

The merchants of this District are complaining of a scarcity of fresh running water.

Pen. Pencil and Scissors.
Civilized man drinks \$200,000,000 worth of champagne every year.

Query for Joe Jefferson. Were not all the officers of the ocean yacht race sail on Souders? LADY SEATERS are advised to scream prettily when passing an air-hole, and to give the arm of Charles Augustus a frantic squeeze.

Two sisters, left in a state of utter destitution, employ themselves in cutting wood and hauling it to Mobile.

JOSEPH A. VREAR, a broker in Boston, is reported to have failed, with liabilities of half a million.

An English servant who had appropriated five dollars to himself which he had collected for his master, cut his throat.

A NUMBER of Right Honorables in London have come to the conclusion that education is necessary for the working classes.

The watch-meetings of the colored people in Boston on New Year's Eve are said to have been very lively and emotional.

If the Prince Umberto marries the niece of the Duke of Modena, the Princess will have a fortune of \$20,000,000.

All the hotels in Brighton, Mass., had their liquors seized on Tuesday, while parties of Bostonians were out there enjoying their New Year's sleighing.

The magnificent sum of \$276,000 has been received and acknowledged by the Quebec Confédération Relief Committee. This is about \$30 per head of the whole number of sufferers.

This year just departed has been a terrible one for confederations. The fire-bred not only burned up towns but roasted a great quantity of the human race.

The man who offered to send us a cotton plantation if we would pay the postage, is informed that we are not people of that stamp.—Boston Post.

Things have come to a pretty pass when any jacking lawyer from the backwoods can take it upon himself to instruct the Supreme Court of the United States.

The railroads of this country employ two hundred thousand men, and at least a million of men, women and children depend for their support upon the railroad interest.

It is related of two old Scotch ministers that the one asked the other if he were not sorely tempted at times to go fishing on the Saturday afternoon. "Oh, mon," replied his fellow-laborer, "I'm never tempted lang, I just gang."

DAN BAYNARD has been hunting the elephant for many years. He found one last week in the Cincinnati Menagerie. Venturing too close to the trunk, (as a baggage-master would say,) the elephant took Bryant up, and, swinging him around his head, flung him for twenty feet. Dan was not hurt, but he thought it a higher feat in the drama than he ever essayed either before or here. We believe he gave no minstrelsy on the occasion.

PERSONAL.
MR. ANNE BRADY has recovered from his late accident, and will do the honors of his establishment at his "hop" to-night.

MADAME JENNY LIND GOLDENWITZ is vice president of the London Academy of Music.

SIG. JACOB GORCHI, manager, Sig. Ronconi and Mad. de Ronconi, of Marcella's Opera Troupe, arrived at the Metropolitan yesterday.

CONGRESS COME AGAIN.
Congress reassembles to-day, and should promptly congratulate the country, by joint resolution, that TRE FRAUDS have not, during the recess, declared himself a despot, or something else, while the members of the two Houses have been home quietly enjoying their turkey, plum pudding and mince pie.

The National Bank of the Metropolis.

A cotemporary yesterday transferred to its columns a notice dated Nov. 30, 1866, to the effect that the bank named above would close up its affairs according to the law in such case made and provided by act of Congress. This notice was published not only in a New York paper, as required by law, but also in a Washington journal. If the Washington print was so obscure that the friends of the Star failed to notice the fact of the publication, they are not blameable in that matter, but the truth is that the Bank of the Metropolis, fully able and quite ready to meet all its liabilities, (and to receive the dues of its debtors,) is closing its business in this city according to law, notice of the same having been given more than a month ago.

The Gun Question.
Upon the first page of our paper to-day will be found an interesting communication from Mr. WARD upon the causes of the bursting of heavy cannon. When we consider the immense cost of big guns, in respect of their original expense, of their failure to serve their purpose in battle, and the destruction to life they may occasion by bursting, it is a matter of great importance to the public, who pay and get killed, to learn what may prevent failures and catastrophes in gun-making.

Italian Opera.
The holidays are to be rounded off properly with a series of operas at the National Theatre, and to-night the delightful "Crispino e la Comare" will be produced with a strong cast. This will be followed by "Il Trovatore." "The Star of the North," "Zampa," etc. The arrangements for the present season are as nearly perfect, we believe, in all respects as could be expected or desired.

"The Long Strike."
Much curiosity has been raised in regard to the forthcoming "Long Strike" at Wall's Opera House. How long will it strike? and how it will strike the public? These questions to be settled to-night and a few nights hereafter. We will go there to-night and see about it.

The Washington letter to the Boston Transcript, under date of December 30, an excellent attempt to imitate Senator SUMNER's style. It is *Rappahat*. It is so remarkable that we shall be obliged to refer to it again.

AMONG THE RUDDERS is one that the congressional revenue investigating committee sent to New York will report against Collector SMYTH, and attempt to force him from his position.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY J. F. HARTLEY is still very sick with pleuro-pneumonia. He was reported as being no better yesterday.

LEAGUE ISLAND is in danger of being flooded at high water, and is not proof against fire at low water. Washington harbor is the place for the iron-clad fleet.

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TELEGRAMS

The National Republican.

By the United States and European News Company

FROM EUROPE BY CABLE

PRUSSIA AND FRANCE.

KING OF ITALY ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

HE BELIEVES IN A LASTING PEACE.

A SPEECH BY NAPOLEON.

NEWS FROM MEXICO.

MAX. ESTABLISHED AT PUEBLA

BLOODY CONFLICT ON A SMALL SCALE.

N. O. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

THEY START FOR WASHINGTON.

Meeting of State Legislatures.

MESSAGES OF THE GOVERNORS.

ANOTHER FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

By the Atlantic Cable.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The King of Prussia has sent one of his officers to Toulon in order to study the naval construction of France, which he believes to be superior to that of any other country.

ALGERIA, Dec. 28.—The Cotton Supply Administration Company, of Algeria, has received from New Orleans and South Carolina 20 hogheads of Sea Island middling cotton seed to be distributed gratuitously among the inhabitants of Algeria.

PARIS, Jan. 2.—Napoleon's speech delivered to the Diplomatic Corps on New Year's day is of a very pacific tone.

BRISTOL, IRELAND, Jan. 2.—Nine Fenian arrests have been made here, and also a seizure of arms.

VIENNA, Jan. 2.—It is said that Austria is about to convene a new Reichsrath for the purpose of effecting a compromise with Hungary.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The United States steam sloop of war Sacramento and Osprey were at Madeira on the 26th instant.

TIENTSIN, Jan. 1.—The King has accepted the resignation of his Ministers, and appointed a new Cabinet.

FLORENCE, Jan. 1.—King Victor Emmanuel, in his speech to the Diplomatic body to-day, expressed his belief that peace was likely to continue for a long time, but still urged the reorganization on a hostile basis of the southern army.

FROM NEW ORLEANS AND MEXICO.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2.—The steamer Morning Star, bound to New York, has been fast aground on the Southwest Pass bar since Saturday night.

Gen. Sterling Price and three daughters have arrived here from Cordova, Mexico.

The Imperial Mexican decree of Dec. 15th orders a new enrolment of all estate, real and personal, to be taxed for the support of the Government. The tax established by the decree of Dec. 30th pursuance whereof these enrolments are ordered, must be paid within the 1st and 10th of every month.

Maximilian's government is fully established at Puebla. The City Council have presented him an address welcoming him to the city.

The Cabinet is still engaged upon the subject of a new national congress, but no account of their deliberations has yet been published.

The French Minister and Gen. Castelnau are also at Puebla.

A sanguinary conflict occurred at the Bridge Ixtla, between a small force of Imperialists, conducting a convoy, and eight hundred Liberals, who were the former's superior in numbers.

The Imperialists had captured and shot one Col. Bravo and three other Liberal chiefs.

Collector Kellogg was summoned before the riot committee yesterday, and again to-day. Gov. Wells was summoned before it to-day to testify upon the subject of the riot and the condition of the South from his standpoint.

It is the intention of the committee to close their labors this evening, and leave for Washington to-night. The testimony taken is voluminous.

FROM NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The dry goods trade is quiet, with but few sales. The market, notwithstanding the extreme lethargy, is in a healthy condition, and the future is looked forward to with much hope, but without much speculation as to when the spring trade will open. Few believe in a heavy trade during the year, but a healthy tone is expected. There has never been a year when so many changes have occurred as are published to-day. Prices are steady and unchanged.

It is stated that Captain O'Shea was taken for C. O. I. R. Stephens, and that the latter has not been here for some weeks.

The Croton water-works for the past year exceed \$1,000,000. This is the largest amount ever received in one year.

Cotton Crop.

MOBILE, Jan. 2.—The receipts of cotton at all the ports for the last four months foot up 750,000 bales. It is generally believed by the cotton factors here and at New Orleans that fully one-half of the present crop has already been delivered.

Snow in Virginia.

RICHMOND, Jan. 2.—Snow has been falling all day, and business is nearly suspended. The James river is blocked with ice from Richmond to the mouth of Warwick run. Several vessels laden with coal and other merchandise will be detained here some time.

Fenianism.

BUFFALO, Dec. 2.—The Fenians yesterday had a procession of civil and military organizations on the occasion of erecting a monument to L. E. K. Lanigan, who was killed at Ridgeway last June. The weather is mild, and there is a light fall of snow.

Secret Testimony All One Way.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2.—The investigations by the Congressional committee into the riots are conducted with secrecy, but the evidence of the prominent citizens here is known to be all one way.

Steamer Movements.

BOATON, Jan. 2.—The R. M. steamship China arrived at her dock at 5 p. m. The steamship Java sailed this noon. She took out no specie.

Gov. Fenton's Message, &c.

ALBANY, Jan. 2.—Gov. Fenton, in his message, recommends the passage of the constitutional amendment, calls the attention of the Legislature to the measures needed for calling together a State constitutional convention, recommends that the number of delegates be increased by thirty, to be chosen at large and urges such reform of the judicial system as will increase the pace of justice, which has been halting for a number of years in this State, to the great injury of litigants. He urges strict economy in the management of the State, and a reform of assessments as shall make personal property bear its fair share of State taxation, and shows from the report of the Comptroller that the State has been running behind during the last two years, the expenses exceeding the income. He also calls the attention of the Legislature to the necessity for some measure to force prosecuting attorneys to do their duty in bringing criminals to justice, and urges that the organs of the State be put in charge of capable men, and that they be not removable for political causes. He proposes to put the pardoning power into the hands of a bureau or commission. He makes a suggestion for a board of unalarmed inspectors to examine into the management of the State, and the numerous claims on the State which give rise or reason to provide for invalid soldiers or the widows or orphans of soldiers.

While stating that State militia had been much improved, he urges the adoption of breech-loaders. He also recommends the removal of all impediments in the way of a free system of instruction by children throughout the State. Also, that further measures be taken to continue the protection and security from cholera this year. The charitable institutions of the State are in a gratifying condition of usefulness.

The population of the State is 3,827,818, an increase of 100,000 since 1850, and the almost wholly in commercial and manufacturing districts.

The manufacturing products of the State have increased since 1860 from \$379,000,000 to \$463,000,000.

The Governor also proposes the construction of a canal of locks on the Erie and Oswego canals to increase the passage of steam vessels of 500 to 600 tons, which can be paid for by the increased canal revenues in seventeen years.

The old canal and general fund debts he expects will be obliterated by 1872.

ALBANY, Jan. 2.—After the reading of the Governor's message in the Senate, Senator H. C. Murphy presented a memorial from Senator G. B. Cornell, denying all the charges that have been made against him as street commissioner of New York, and asking for an investigation.

Mr. Andrews moved that the memorial be referred to the Judiciary Committee with power to send for persons and papers. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Stanford gave notice of a bill to repeal the railroad fee pass act.

H. C. Murphy gave notice of a bill to bridge the East river, between Brooklyn and New York.

FROM HAVANA AND MEXICO.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The steamship Eagle, from Havana December 29, arrived here this evening. Our letter is as follows:

HAVANA, Dec. 29.—From Mexico we are having no decided news for some time. The large steamer Florida left Vera Cruz on the 18th with 1,100 French troops, and what is of more importance, with a full cargo of arms and ammunition.

A French war vessel arrived at Vera Cruz on the 19th from New Orleans with cable news from Mexico, and it is stated that they will transport to arrive there in January, and that he expected all the French troops to be on board within three weeks after their arrival. Everything indicates that the French are hastening the evacuation.

Maximilian is making his way to the city of Mexico, and will doubtless remain until after the departure of the French troops, when he will probably attempt to leave. This will prove a hazardous step, as even his present friends—accomplices, as *Estafeta* calls them—will turn upon him.

Vera Cruz, and in fact the whole country, is full of rumors, and it is difficult to get at the truth. The Liberals are ready the moment that Marshal Bazaine leaves the city of Mexico to throw in 8,000 or 10,000 troops, and it is even reported that so great is Bazaine's anger at Maximilian and his wife that he stands firmly by the President to prevent the Imperialists from proceeding.

It is also reported that a quantity of muskets have been condemned and secretly sold to the Liberals as being useless, on account of the difficulties of transportation over the mountains to Vera Cruz. This seems probable, as Bazaine wishes to revenge himself on Maximilian for trading him to the Court of France, and will do what he can to annoy Maximilian and prostrate his plans.

Marguez and Miramon are trying to raise men and money, but without success; nor is it believed that they will accomplish anything.

The United States steamer Winoski made a splendid passage of six days from here to Tampico and Vera Cruz, arriving at the latter port on the 14th inst.

The French Admiral, Clunay, visited her, and salutes were exchanged.

The Liberals are almost in possession of the road from Mexico to Vera Cruz. The mails are captured and the horses taken from the stages; and it is supposed the march of the French troops to the coast will be much harassed, though no visible enemies will make any opposition.

A detachment of French troops were at Tampico and Vera Cruz, and twenty-five men were killed and wounded. According to the French accounts the enemy's loss was greater. Another detachment, under Heckeve, was attacked at Cuatitlan and Heckeve wounded in the thigh.

THE MAINE LEGISLATURE.

AUGUSTA, Me., Jan. 2.—The Legislature of this State convened here to-day. Hon. N. B. Impee, of Knox county, was elected President of the Senate, and Hon. Lewis Borden, of Steuben, Speaker of the House. Both were nominees of the Republican caucus.

Col. Franklin M. Drew, of Brunswick, was elected clerk.

Both branches have adjourned until to-morrow, when Gen. Chamberlain, the Governor elect, will be inaugurated and deliver his message.

FROM TEXAS.

GALVESTON, Jan. 2.—Horace Greeley declines, for want of time, to lecture before the Galveston Literary.

The gentleman Tallapoosa leaves to-day to convey the Emperor to Mexico, under orders from Commodore Winslow.

The dispatch steamer Black Bird carrier Government dispatches from Commodore Winslow.

ACTIVE FENIANISM.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Great excitement was created here to-night in Fenian circles in this city by a dispatch from St. Louis announcing the active movements of Stephens in Ireland. It is generally believed here that active movements have taken place.

SNOW STORM IN TEXAS.

GALVESTON, Jan. 2.—The severest snow storm which has occurred here since 1852 has prevailed here to-day.

FIRE IN CANADA.

OTTAWA, Jan. 2.—A hotel, storehouse, and outbuildings at Hull were destroyed by fire last night. Loss considerable.

Extra Session of the Ohio Legislature.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 2.—The Ohio Legislature in extra session convened at Columbus at 10 o'clock to-day. Gov. Cox's message is quite lengthy, and treats principally of State affairs. The finances of the State are represented to be in a flourishing condition. The balance in the State treasury on Nov. 15th was over \$1,021,000. Total amount collected was over \$1,341,000. The State debt on Nov. 15th was \$1,212,000. The commissioners of the sinking fund have paid and discharged during the past year over \$1,097,000, and the payment to be made by them during the present month will reduce the total debt to a little over \$11,341,000.

During the coming four years, \$5,844,000 of the debt and interest will become payable, but its discharge will require no additional taxation. The total valuation of property in the State subject to taxation in 1867 is \$1,106,208,000, equal to about one cent of the value of the State.

The balance of the State debt is \$1,212,000. The State's credit in the market is not surpassed by any other State or Government in the world. The benevolent institutions of the State are represented as being in good condition and conducted with proper economy.

The Governor says that the record by the Ohio soldiers enlisted during the war has been compiled, and he recommends the propriety of following the example of nearly all the other States in publishing and making available to the world the only complete and authentic record of the military efforts of the State in the great national struggle.

It contains provisions which, in the wisdom of the national Legislature, are necessary to secure permanent peace throughout the country, and to correct the palpable evils remaining in those States which were lately in rebellion—evils which, without such correction, would endanger the national safety, and be a lasting source of irritation and strife. Several of the States have already ratified the amendment, but I deeply regret that it has been rejected by several of those whose ratification would do most to make the measure the promise and beginning of that full settlement of our internal dissensions, for which we all long. I am not without hope that a mature consideration and calm reflection will convince even those who rejected the proposal that justice, right, and the welfare of the country demand a reconsideration of the matter and a different decision.

Maryland Items.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—The Legislature assembled here this morning. Only a temporary organization was effected. A caucus will be held after the adjournment to select officers to be elected. The question of the United States Senatorship is the great theme of conversation and there is much canvassing on the subject.

The Eastern Shore members appear to be greatly averse to repealing the law which entitles that section of the State to a candidate for the Senatorship. On the other hand, the friends of Gov. Swann express great confidence of the success of their champion.

It is thought that Oliver Miller, of this county, will be chosen Senator. The Governor's message will be submitted to-morrow. A very large number of applicants for office are in attendance.

The steamer Adelaide, of the Old Bay Line, being unable to reach Baltimore from Norfolk, in consequence of the ice, discharged her passengers here this afternoon, and they went north by rail.

The United States steamer Gettysburg, which was ashore below here, has, it is understood, been gotten off, but will be unable to proceed on her voyage. F. W. Seward, Assistant Secretary of State, with some ladies, were on board, and it is stated that they will be transferred to the Don, which is reported to have arrived in order to take the place of the Gettysburg, and is said to be destined for some secret mission.

FROM ALABAMA.

MONTGOMERY, Dec. 30.—Senator Parsons, of this city, has returned to his home from his late visit to Washington. He is still decided in the expression of his opinion that the State of Alabama ought not to accept the amendment, and he urged upon the Legislature and people to stand firmly by the President and trust to him for a finally satisfactory issue.

The Northern people, he says, will yet see the wisdom of the South in refusing to accept the amendment, and when once a correct view is taken they will adopt such measures as will secure the restoration of Alabama and all the States to their political equality in the Union.

MOBILE, Dec. 30.—It is officially announced that the visit of Gov. Patton to the North is not of a strictly political character, but that he proceeds thither at the request of certain bondholders, with a view to arrange, if possible, for an extension of the time required for the payment of interest, and thus save the credit of the State. Independent of this, however, Gov. Patton was delegated by the meeting at his home to proceed to Washington and confer with the President and others upon the question of the amendment as applicable to the restoration of the State.

PHILADELPHIA Murder.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—The man who was found lying in an insensible condition in the area of a house on Congress street, third ward, yesterday, died yesterday at the hospital. He is about five feet seven inches high, black hair and large red goatee. He could give no account of himself. His name is supposed to be Laurence Logan. The post mortem examination showed that he had been beaten and thrown in the cellar way.

SHERMAN AND BRAGG.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2.—Gen. Braxton Bragg, formerly of the Confederate army, is on